

# "THE BLENDING OF THE EAST AND WEST"

I. L. D. DEFENDS BLACK AND WHITE IN HUNGER MARCH

(By C. N. S.)

(Continued from page one)

merely relative terms. If the meridian at Greenwich was selected by the Washington convention of 1884 as the basis of calculation for the world, that meridian was only conventional. In more sense than one; for the little English village has no other claim than its observatory to be the demarcation line for the terrestrial globe. The line which there divides East from West also serves to unite them. Hence we may improve the rhetoric of the palmarist and instead of saying "as far as the East is from the West," say with equal truth, "As near as the East is to the West." Hence, too, it is not only when two strong men come from the ends of the earth, stand "face to face," but when the weakest man, fixing his eyes upon the polar star, stretches out his arms, that the two hemispheres are united and that "there is neither East nor West, border nor breed nor birth." Without being untrue to the land of one's birth, one may say with Henry Clay, "I know no South, no North, no East, no West, to which I owe any allegiance." Indeed men and women of the present generation may improve upon the oratory of the Great Compromiser and say, "I owe my loyalty to North and South, to East and West." Whether we live to or the irresistible power of scientific inventions and racial distinctions. Over territorial boundaries erected by treaties and tariff walls, fly aeroplanes unimpeded. No legal convention can check radio communication. Very soon will come television and perhaps telepathy.

We are now standing in the early period of internationalism. We are emerging from nationalism and racialism, but are still under the spell of the illusions of anthropological charmers. On a very meagre basis some pseudo-scientists have alarmed us with the inevitable clash between the East and the West. According to their demonstrations, the color of the hair or the form of its cross-section may become a casus belli. But man is not governed by science. Technocracy has not yet established its rule. He is still swayed by emotions and sentiments, fancies and prejudices. Man in general is so made that just as he requires to have some one or many to love, so must he also have one or many to hate. He is not satisfied unless he has somebody to look down upon. Just as it is impossible for the human body to thrive on purely scientific diet, on unadorned elements and vitamins but that some quantity of stuff without nutritive value is needed, — so does it seem that the human mind must maintain a certain amount of ill will, malice, grudge, envy, jealousy, in order to feel happy. When the Christian religion was at the height of its power in the Middle Ages, we see that instead of love and charity prevailing, the faithful followers of the Church vented their hatred on the Jews and on the heathen. The generality of mankind cannot sustain life on pure food, physical or mental. I believe it is a sign of progress, however, when a people look to distant peoples instead of to those nearby for an object to pour out their vials of wrath upon. It seems to be a refreshing exercise to give full vent to all the bitter feelings on some body whom you do not know, and who cannot hit back. Racial animosity is thus a sort of purgative, it evacuates a poison in your body. It has another advantage. It makes us feel so superior, and that feeling is worth a bag of gold. When one is not endowed by nature with any gifts to be proud of, what a comfort it is to find some strange looking foreigner who behaves a little differently and does not speak our language! His very appearance gives us a sense of superiority. It is a racial prejudice acts as a sedative and even as a tonic. But there is still another reason for recommending racial prejudice for its medicinal effect. If, in the presence of two objects, we express our disapproval for one, it is generally implied that we like the other. If in a country we speak ill of aliens, we are believed to love the natives. Professional patriots ply their trade by abusing foreigners as the cheapest process of showing their supposed fidelity to their compatriots. In this case the abuse of aliens acts as a stimulant and an antidote against unpopularity.

No we may consider race bigotry a natural and even a profitable excretion of the human mind and is freely resorted to between the East and West. But man is inconsistently imbued with the emotions of love, which counterbalances hate, and as it grows by constant contact with one's fellow-men, the power of hate tends to decline. International communication steadily weakens racial animosity and the possession of that sentiment will be looked

ed upon in the future with the same curiosity with which we regard a man with a tail. In other words, racial prejudice is a phenomenon that will pass away with the march of knowledge and understanding.

In the early beginning of Anthropology, when visible racial traits were the chief indices of race classification, it was most easy to make deductions conducive to race hostility. The gloominess in these fields of science — the mien and Cuvier — probably did not dream of abuses made of their ethnological classifications. It was Stewart Chamberlain — who misdirected anthropological studies into emotional national antagonism.

The race cleavage that appears most glaringly in the present age lies between the East and the West — Asia and Europe and here I look upon America as an extension of Europe. But we know that the cleavage is not a mere geographical concept. It was formerly designated as a religious one — Christendom versus Heathenism. Another nomenclature adopted in the Old and New Civilization. Not infrequently is the difference expressed by Spiritual and Material. Ethnically it bears the name Colored and White.

None of these distinctions can be logical or scientific. As to Asia and Europe, geographers adopt more and more the term Eurasia, and historians find the great debt Greece owes to the more ancient Asia. Lately the Pacific is joining together rather than separating Asia and America.

The designation Christendom, which appears for the first time in the English language in 1389, was a vague and sentimental denomination, due to a consciousness of the common interests aroused by the Crusades. This term gradually losing its religious import, "West," first used by Auguste Comte and the selection of this term in the thesis concerning the unity and uniformity of European civilization as an antithesis to the culture of the Orient.

This discrimination of differences between the East and West certainly marks an advance in the progress of ideas upon the age when European nations did not recognize their collective interests. It was a decided step toward a larger intergroup whereby Europe becomes conscious of a common bond.

A Frenchman and a German, a Norwegian and a Greek, was now proud to be an European and found a new satisfaction in the enlargement of their esprit de corps. But no barrier can prevent the urge of men and of nations to exchange wares and ideas. Man's mental frontiers is never restricted by conventional geographical symbols. Caravans passed unimpeded between Europe and Asia. In the borderland between Asia and Europe mingled Aryans, Semites, Turanians, Akkadia, Babylon, Assyria, Chaldeans, Crete, Egypt and Greece, and later, Rome, were all interrelated. The Ural mountains are nowhere too high to cross. The straits of Dardanelles can be swum across. The Aegean Sea is dotted with stepping stones of islands. As to the Pacific in prehistoric times the ancestors of the Indians passed from Asia on foot to America by way of the Aleutians. There is also a current which flows along the coast of Japan and washes along the shores of Oregon. Several instances are on record of shipwrecked sailors wafted along the shores of this state. Nevertheless by the long separation between the East and the West, mankind lost centuries in art and literature, though they gained thereby something in the art of government. Political activity is real and realistic. It is of the earth earthy. It is not ideal. It does not fly—being local and practical it develops in a limited area with a homogenous population whom it imbues with social patriotism. It seems to me that art and science have always to be dragged behind in order to keep step with slower moving government. I sometimes wonder if nationalism which is the essence of all governments has not been the chief obstacle of human progress. Nationalism is a necessary evil in the march of human culture. At the same time premature internationalism hinders such art and ideas as can be best nurtured within national bounds. Setting aside these idle speculations, let us look at some mental differentiations effected by the long continued separation between the two hemispheres.

It is said that the genius of the East is spiritual, mystical, psychical, and that of the West is material, actual, physical. Many believe that the forte as well as the fault of the East is religion and sentiment, and that of the West, science and reason. Some say that the East delights in generalization and the East delights in generalization and the East delights in generalization, that the one leans to philosophy and ideas, and the other to practice and facts, that Oriental logic is deductive and its arguments negative; that Occidental logic is inductive and its arguments positive. Many think that in political and social life, solidarity and socialism characterize the East, and individualism and liberty the West. It is said again that the Asiatic mind is impersonal and rejects the world, whereas the European mind is personal and enjoys the world. The strength of Europe lies in the mastery of man over nature, and the weakness of Asia in the mastery and the weakness of man for the land of the morning, man looks for beauty first and writes his fitting thoughts in numbers; in the

land of evening, man's first thought is for utility, and he jots down his observations in numerals. He who watches the setting sun, pursues whither it marches. His watchword is Progress and his religion is the cult of the future. He who greets the effulgent dawn is therewith content and cares not for further course but rather turns in wonderment to the source whence it came, hence his religion is the cult to contemplation, the vesper hour, to reflection. In the East man lives for the sake of life; in the West lives for the means of living.

A few comparisons we have made may help us to understand how the barrier raised by the Saracens affected the thought and mentality of the East and West. Both have only caught glimpses of the whole. Neither is content with itself. We are reminded of the original form of the human being described in some detail by Plato. According to a legend which he recounts, man was globular with two faces and four arms and four feet. He was both man and woman with power to perpetuate his race. So perfect was he that he was too proud to accept the supremacy of the Deity and for punishment for his arrogance he was cut in twain. Ever since he has never been satisfied, the one half always longing for the other half. Man's mind rests in unity.

As long as our planet is round, a segmental or hemispheric progress can only remain fragmentary and falls short of complete unity. Only in mutual understanding between the opposite points of the compass can we read the final destiny of the species. The national soul is not the whole of man. It is precious, but it is not all. It cannot indeed develop itself without outside influence.

The pioneers of internationalism, the match makers in the wedding of the East and West are on the look-out for points of union and they find there are many. Indeed there is no point where the two cannot meet. In whatever way the East exerts, let the West share in it. In whatever the East is wanting, the West will supply. Their very differences afford the strong argument for reciprocity.

Even in so mundane an affair as Politics and Business, Japan has amply shown that the Western ideas of constitutional government, of corporate business enterprise, can be adopted by an Eastern people. There is every reason to believe that China with her quick intelligence will give up the present system of anti-foreign education and will in a few decades follow the Western examples in whatever is useful and of good report. On the other hand there are definite indications that the West is looking to the East for light — at least for some kind of light. The lessons of physics are teaching us how to discover irradiation in the darkest corners of the universe. The lessons of history lead us to the belief that no race, however gifted, can create their civilization unaided and alone. Was Athenian art possible without Mycaean? Japanese art would have been a jumble without the aid of Chinese, Indian, Thibetan, Persian, and Greek art. The law of relativity holds good in all human activities. As the poet Bailey says,

"Tis light translateth night;  
"Tis inspiration expounds experience;  
"Tis the West explains the East."  
In the field of spiritual truths, which race can claim monopoly? The West's interpretation of that unique and mysterious character, the Christ, does scant justice to the reality. He is more than Western theologians represent him and Christianity itself will be enriched by the wise men of the East. Trade and economic interests will tie the East and the West closer. The very differences should be the binding force.

## Y. W. C. A. NEWS

The Business and Industrial Girls Club will present a pageant of the Nativity Sunday afternoon at the Vesper hour. Miss Margaret Wyman is the director and Miss Nellie Franklin is in charge of the music and costumes.

At the same time, Miss Mabel Keech superintendent of the Helen Kelley Manley community center, will give an illustrated talk on Palestine and the Holy Land.

The Welfare Sewing Committee, Mesdames R. F. Morrison, B. E. Randolph, Martha Jamelson and I. B. Vesel, have been busy making garments for the needy.

The High School Girl Reserves are rehearsing for a play to be given in the near future.

The annual Christmas party was attended by over seventy five children. Presents consisted of Xmas stockings filled with fruit, candy and nuts.

A beautiful picture, a replica of the painting of Rhelms Cathedral in France was the gift of Mrs. F. Egertz to the Y.

The N. A. A. C. P. held a mass-meeting at the branch Thursday night.

## PROSECUTOR'S STATEMENT PUT INTO GEORGIA COURT RECORDS

(Continued from page one)  
Crow, segregation in exclusion in open court, nor see white officials cross-examined on the stand by Negro lawyers. Davis called as witnesses judges, clerks, sheriffs, jury commissioners, and the prosecutor himself, and was prepared to call on more officials who had been subpoenaed, when admission of systematic exclusion of Negroes was wrung out of the Rev. John Hudson and put on the record.

At the trial, a motion to quash the indictment on the ground that Negroes were excluded from the grand jury that handed it down will be introduced and the same witness subpoenaed. Another motion will demand the dismissal of the entire jury panel on the ground that Negroes are systematically excluded from it.

Angelo Herndon, 19-year-old Negro organizer of Negro and white unemployed, is charged with "inciting to insurrection" under an ancient slave law. The charge carries the death penalty. It has been used by the courts of chain gang Georgia in their attempt to suppress the struggles of the Negro and white workers for unity in the class struggle, and for national liberation of the Negro people. The famous "Atlanta Six," four white and two Negro workers are faced with death on the same charge. The basis of the indictment against them is their distribution of a pamphlet containing a picture of a Negro and white worker shaking hands. The indictment against Herndon is based on his possession of the Daily Worker, and other working class publications, which circulate freely in the mails throughout the country.

All workers and workers' organizations are urged to send protest telegrams and resolutions, demanding unconditional release of Herndon, to Prosecutor Rev. John Hudson, Fulton County Court, Atlanta, Ga.

## MILLER AND TRACEY FUNERALS

(Continued from page one)  
charge of five colored funerals during the past year and Holman & Lutz, 2. A few others were scattered along several other funeral directors.

There was one funeral which Miller & Tracey furnished complete without any cost to a needy family.

# PRISONS and PRISONERS

(By Clifford C. Mitchell)

A group of Jackson prisoners recently brought much credit to Jackson Prison and their efforts have been published as news in quite a few daily papers, as well as our own SCHOOL NEWS. We refer, specifically, to the debaters who recently won a Detroit one decision over a group of two Detroit debaters in the auditorium at the New Prison.

What is written here, therefore, is not news but an analysis of the facts that made the debater's feat news. Jackson prisoners have achieved signal success in literary efforts; musical accomplishments; general entertaining ability; arts; as inventors; prize gardeners; expertists, mechanics and as experts in a variety of vocations, and now as debaters.

These achievements have all come about from the same cause and that is a policy of educating and encouraging the prisoners to exert every talent affording towards developing any talent that they might possess, and under such system it is but a natural result that out of several thousand prisoners many individuals will find themselves to the front displaying an ability equal to, if not actually surpassing, that possessed by others and from all walks of life.

Debaters! That's a new one! Who ever heard of a prison debating team for an opportunity, such as they recently enjoyed, winning laurels for the free world? Baseball games, football games, basketball games and many other kinds of athletic sports—yes, but never a debating outfit before. But there is no reason why prisoners shouldn't develop themselves in wonderful debaters in all prisoners are to be found many prisoners with a magnificent voluble ability. The only trouble has been in using that ability in the wrong channel. Many prisoners have found them education has proved entirely justifies in prison simply because they

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—In the National Hunger March the International Labor Defense again came forward as the shield of the working class, as provocative boss attacks multiplied against the Negro and white representatives of the starving unemployed, along the lines of the march and in the capital itself.

Thousands had made the long trek across country in jolting trucks, en during cold and wind that they might march in dramatic formation in the streets of Washington and petition Congress to alleviate the Negro and white unemployed and their dependents, starting in the midst of plenty. The police, having lured the marchers into a cul-de-sac, taunted them, dared them to cross the boundaries of their prison-like enclosure, bitterly fingered their lethal weapons as they sought an excuse, for a wholesale massacre of the 3,000 delegates. But they failed of their purpose by virtue of the unwavering solidarity of the marchers, their courageous and splendid discipline in the face of un-speakable acts of provocation.

The I.L.D. launched its legal defense when David Levinson, I.L.D. attorney, backed by an assistant mass pressure, by hundreds of wired protests to Senators, Congressmen, and the vice-president, forced a writ of habeas corpus releasing the marchers from the police guard from Justice Lubling of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, together with an injunction against the provocative display of brute force against the imprisoned marchers by police inform of \$10,000 worth of tear gas and gas of a type to produce violent nausea, barricaded machine guns, sawed off shotguns and clubs, while at all police sirens shrieked through the streets and public buildings bristled with reserve officers, marines and squads of cavalry. The writs, granted, were never argued, for under the insistence of mass pressure the authorities capitulated.

Washington police raged at the sight of Negro and white workers marching side by side down the streets of the national capital. The blue-uniformed thugs, in line with the provocative tactics they had employed since the advent of the marchers, shouted insulting remarks, especially when white and Negroes marched past together. "Down With Jim-Crow" was one of the major slogans chanted in unison by the marchers as they trudged behind Negro and white section-captains. As they sang the "International" black and white fists shot into the air and hats were doffed. Interspersed with the enthusiastic singing were deep throated, reverberating cries of "No Discrimination Against Negro Workers," coupled with yells denouncing Hoover for his refusal to aid the starving workers.

Two petitions to present the Marchers' petitions to Vice President were started out from the line of march under the leadership of William Reynolds and Herbert Benjamin. In Reynolds' company were three Negroes, one a woman. Two Negroes served as delegates in Benjamin's group.

Immediately after presentation of the petitions the marchers prepared still bound by the same orderly discipline that had marked their stay. But their troubles with police were far from over. Hindering and obstructive, and provocative, tactics were used by the authorities in every possible instance to discourage the victorious marchers and break down their morale.

met by a squad of motorcycle police and prevented them from entering the city despite the fact that food and shelter, already procured, was awaiting them. A delegation from the I.L.D. immediately went to the City Council and forced the council to rescind its order and permit the marchers to rest in hall's provided for them to get food and reorganize their columns to go on.

Meanwhile the flight to release imprisoned Negro and white workers, arrested in scores of cities and booked on a myriad framed-up charges is being steadily carried forward by the I.L.D.

Definite steps are being planned, too, to counteract and thoroughly repudiate the lying "news" stories that appeared while the march was in progress in many white newspapers, ranging from the stately New York Times, the reactionary Herald-Tribune, the Hearst and Scripps Howard chains to scurrilous tabloids like the one in Wilmington, Delaware, in which many Negro workers and scores of white workers were beaten up and then arrested for "disorderly conduct" and extolled the "citizen army" of Cumberland, Md., which met the peaceful marchers with machine guns and threats, and Negro and white workers rode in trucks decorated and marched shoulder to shoulder.

The Washington Daily News reported an incident that occurred on December 6, when 25 policemen and a lieutenant surrounded a car in which rode eight men, to of them Negroes. "Come out of there, you lousy white trash, travelling around with blacks," a policeman shouted. Four of the men were hauled from the car and roughly handled.

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